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UNCLAS SAIGON 25385

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: MAY 10 AFTERNOON SESSION

1. CA APPROVED REVISED VERSION OF CHAPTER SEVEN OF DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW WHICH DEALS WITH PENALTIES FOR ELECTION FRAUD. CHAPTER NOW HAS FOURTEEN ARTICLES INSTEAD OF TWO. ARTICLES AS FINALLY APPROVED BY CA READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE ARTICLE 44. ANY VOTER WHO PURPOSELY CASTS HIS BALLOT SEVERAL TIMES OR ANY PERSON WHO HAS NO VOTING

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CARD BUT IS AUTHORIZED AT HIS OWN REQUEST TO VOTE ANYWAY SHALL BE FINED FROM 1,000 TO 20,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONED FROM ONE MONTH TO A YEAR.
ARTICLE 45. (1) ANY CANDIDATE WHO MAKES USE OF CAMPAIGN MEANS EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT, MODES AND TIME LIMITS PRESCRIBED BY THE ELECTION LAW SHALL BE FINED FROM 10,000 TO 100,000 PIASTERS.

(2) IN THE EVENT OF ACQUITTAL OR EXONERATION, THE CONCERNED COURT SHALL IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO THE EXAMINATION OF DAMAGES, IF ANY, TO THE ACCUSED CANDIDATE.
ARTICLE 46. ANY CANDIDATE WHO, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BRIBES VOTERS WITH MONEY OR OTHER MATERIAL THINGS WILL BE FINED FROM 30,000 TO 300,000 PIASTERS AND SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FROM SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS.

ARTICLE 47. ANY PERSON WHO THREATENS OR BEATS OTHER PERSONS, OR THREATENS THEM WITH LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT, BODILY HARM OR HARM TO THEIR FAMILY AND PROPERTY WITH A VIEW TO

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PREVENTING THEM FROM RUNNING FOR ELECTION, GOING TO THE POLLS, VOTING FOR A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE, OR FORCING THEM NOT TO VOTE FOR A CERTAIN CANDIDATE, WILL BE FINED FROM

100,000 TO 500,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONED FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS.

ARTICLE 48. ANY PERSON WHO, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BRIBES OR ATTEMPTS TO BRIBE ELECTORS OF A VILLAGE OR MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER GROUP BY PROMISING MONEY, MATERIAL THINGS OR ANY FAVOR TO THAT VILLAGE OR GROUP, WILL BE FINED FROM 100,000 TO 500,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONED FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

ARTICLE 49. THE CARRYING OF WEAPONS INTO POLLING BOOTHS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN EXCEPT IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, DISCIPLINE AND GUARANTEE THE ELECTORS' RIGHT TO VOTE FREELY. A VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE RANGING 10,000 TO 100,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONMENT FROM FIFTEEN DAYS TO THREE MONTHS.

ARTICLE 51. ANY PERSON WHOSE DUTY CONSISTS OF RECEIVING, COUNTING OR CONTROLLING BALLOTS OR EXAMINING FILES DSPNRH* TO THE ELECTIONS WHO MANIPULATES OR ALTERS BALLOTS OR ANNOUNCES A NAME DIFFERENT FROM THAT APPEARING ON THE BALLOT WITH A VIEW TO COMMITTING FRAUD, SHALL BE FINED FROM 100,000 TO 500,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONED FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

ARTICLE 52. ANY PERSON WHO DESTROYS BALLOT BOXES OR REMOVES BOXES CONTAINING UNCOUNTED BALLOTS OR WHO CONSPIRES TO DESTROY BALLOTS WITH A VIEW TO AFFECTING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OR CAUSING IT TO BE ANNULLED, SHALL BE IMPRISONED FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

ARTICLE 53. ANY PERSON WHO THREATENS OR HARMS PERSONNEL IN CHARGE OF POLLING BOOTHS WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING THEM FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES, WILL BE FINED FROM 10,000 TO 100,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONED FROM TWO MONTHS TO TWO YEARS. PARA ARTICLE 54. THE PENALTIES DESCRIBED IN ARTICLES 44 TO 53 WILL BE DOUBLED IF THE ACCUSED IS A SALARIED OFFICIAL.

ARTICLE 55. ANY PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN ACTS OF SABOTAGE

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DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE IMPRISONED AT HARD LABOR FROM FIVE TO TWENTY YEARS.

ARTICLE 56. () ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVINCTED BY A COURT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 47,48, 51 AND 52 ABOVE WILL BE DEPRIVED OF HIS RIGHTS AS A CITIZEN FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

ARTICLE 57. COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATIONS OF THIS LAW MUST BE FILED AT A LOCAL CONCILIATION COURT OR A LOCAL

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CONCILIATION COURT WITH EXTENDED JURISDICTION BY SEPTEMBER 6, 1967, AT THE LATEST.
(2) THESE COURTS MUST RULE ON COMPLAINTS BY SEPTEMBER 13, 1967, AT THE LATEST.
(3) THE COURT OF APPEAL MUST MAKE ITS RULING BY SEPTEMBER 23, 1967, AT THE LATEST.

ARTICLE 58. ALL COURT RECORDS AND RECORDS OF SENTENCE RELATED TO THIS ELECTION ARE EXEMPTED FROM STAMP AND REGISTRATION FEES.

ARTICLE 59. PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAWS WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THIS LAW WILL BE ANNULLED. THIS LAW WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM. UNQUOTE

2. CA WILL RECONVENE AFTERNOON MAY 12 TO REVIEW AND TAKE FINAL VOTE ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW.
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BT *AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 25551

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: SENATE SLATE HEADED BY TRAN VAN DON

REF: SAIGON 21770

1. MAY 4 ASSEMBLY DEPUTY DANG VAN SUNG AND FORMER DEPUTY PREMIER TRAN VAN TUYEN TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR

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THAT THEY ARE PLANNING TO FIELD A SENATE SLATE WHICH WILL INCLUDE RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON AND CVT SECGEN TRAN HUU QUYEN. SUNG SAID THE SLATE WILL BE ALLIED WITH LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT THEIR PROGRAM.
2. TRAN VAN DON ON MAY 12 CONFIRMED THAT HE PLANS TO RUN FOR THE SENATE ALONG WITH SUNG AND TRUYEN. HE SAID THAT HE HOPES TO INCLUDE OTHER RETIRED GVNERALS ON THE SLATE AND CLAIMED THAT PAC CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN LOC WILL ALSO RUN WITH THEM.
3. DON SAID HIS FINAL DECISION ON RUNNING FOR THE SENATE DEPENDS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE ELECTORAL LAW. WHEN ASKED WHAT PROVISIONS HE HOPES WILL BE WRITTEN INTO THE LAW, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE IS WAITING TO SEE WHO WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT. HE SAID THAT HIS SLATE WILL SUPPORT ONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND WILL CAMPAIGN WITH HIM. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTS HIS SLATE TO BACK NGUYEN CAO KY, SAYING "OF ALL THE CANDIDATES, I PREFER KY" AND "AS OF NOW, KY IS THE BEST IN THE FIELD." SUNG AND TUYEN ALSO

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HINTED THAT THE SLATE WILL BACK KY.
4. DON TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL POWER OF VETERANS AND SAID THAT HE HAS JUST JOINED THE VETERANS' LEGION. HE SAID THAT HE IS "SPOKESMAN FOR ALL OF THE RETIRED GENERALS" AND HOPES TO LEAD THEM INTO ACTIVE ASSOCIATION WITH A REVITALIZED VETERANS' ORGANIZATION. HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF THE ORGANIZATION OF VETERANS WITH DIRECTORATE SECGEN PHAM XUAN CHIEU.
5. DON INDICATED INDIRECTLY THAT HE IS DIVORCED FROM THE "OLD SCHOOLBOYS' ASSOCIATION" (LIEN TRUONG) WHICH HE FORMERLY CHAIRED. HE SAID THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS TOO NARROWLY SOUTHERN IN CHARACTER AND WILL MOST LIKELY BE USED TO BACK THE CANDIDACY OF TRAN VAN HUONG. HE NOTED THAT HUONG MAY NAME AU TRUONG THANH AS HIS PREMIER IF ELECTED, AND DON WENT ON TO MENTION RUMORS THAT THANH IS CONNECTED WITH THE VIET CONG.
6. COMMENT: (A) A DON-SUNG-TUYEN SENATE SLATE LINKED TO KY'S CANDIDACY NOW APPEARS RATHER DEFINITELY IN THE WORKS. NGUYEN VAN LOC IS PROBABLY NO YET COMMITTED,

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HOWEVER, DESPITE DON'S CLAIM, AND CVT PRESIDENT BUU HAS TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON QUYEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE DON TICKET. THE CVT MAY OR MAY NOT SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT.
(B) SUNG HOPES TO EXTEND THE INFLUENCE OF THE GROUP TO LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES AND FORM A NATIONAL WORKERS-PEASANT PARTY, BUT THAT PART OF THE PROGRAM IS PROBABLY MORE TALK THAN REALITY AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, GIVEN STRONG GOVERNMENT BACKING, THE SLATE COULD CONCEIVABLY TURN OUT TO BE THE NUCLEUS FOR A NATIONAL PARTY.
(C) GENERAL CHIEU HAS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE IS THINKING OF SETTING UP AN ASSOCIATION FOR RESERVE OFFICERS WHICH WOULD BE AFFILIATED WITH THE VETERANS LEGION. CHIEU SAID THAT THIS GROUP WOULD ATTRACT VETERANS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND INTELLECTUAL LEVELS, AND THEY IN TURN COULD PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR THE LEGION. ASSUME THIS IS THE ORGANIZATION WHICH DON IS TALKING ABOUT.
(D) DON DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT HAVEING LOST CONTROL OF THE "OLD SCHOOL BOYS' ASSOCIATION", BUT IS APPEARS THAT HE WILL NOT SUPPORT HUONG FOR PRESIDENT. BUNKER
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